# TO OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS

One of you, Bishop Anderson, addressing the American soldiers at Massevaux, in reconquered Alsace, on Memorial Day, said :

"We are a free and idealistic people. We hate war, but still more do we hate injustice and crime. We have taken up arms in defense of the right and of civilization threatened by the enemy of mankind. Have faith ! The world will be delivered from the Huns."

Yes ! You are a people really free, and your ideal is that same freedom for all the peoples of the earth.

Yes ! You hate war, and that is why you are making war against war.

You have taken up arms in defense of the right, because to you right is not a vain word but the supreme goal of the citizen conscious of his duties.

To the cause which you defend you are giving yourselves unreservedly with all your virile strength and your enthusiastic hearts.

Hatred of tyranny is inborn in you and you hold in respect all those whose wills are aspiring to freedom and struggling against oppression.

And you are charitable because you are just. You have not closed your hearts to tottering Russia. Through the authorized voice of your President you have expressed your sympathy with the Russian democracy, lost on its way, but not despairing of a better future.

These are the reasons for which we admire you, love you, and trust you, and this is why it is to you in chief that we turn now in the tragic days through which our unhappy country is passing.

We do this in spite of the fact that — according to such information as reaches us — your public opinion and your government seem disinclined to give favorable heed to our appeal. We call to you, nevertheless, because it is our duty to do so, and in the hope of convincing you. We approach you to speak of an armed intervention of all the Allies in Siberia, that door to Russia still open in the Far East. We believe this intervention indispensable to the salvation of Russia and the guaranteeing of her freedom, as also to the preservation of the peace of the world in the future.

Never up to now has there been an opportunity so favorable for decisive action by the Allies in Siberia.

The victories now being won there by the Tcheco-Slovaks with the support of the sound elements of the country, the groups which are forming there to oppose themselves against both the German peril and the maximalist tyranny, all reveal the existence there, even now, of advance guards which, at news that help was coming, and especially at sight of American uniforms, even though these were few in number, would spring up all along the way to open and prepare it for the armed troops of the Allies.

Is not this movement of revolt, born in the very population itself, the most eloquent of appeals? an appeal for an intervention which would strengthen and combine those struggles and efforts that are at present without the solid point of support and the resources necessary to success?

Would not energetic action by the Allies in Siberia encourage those democratic elements hostile to Bolchevism? Would it not weaken the German conviction that the road to the East is wide open to them? And would it not show to the Aslatic peoples that the representatives of impenitent militarism are not conquerors?

If the Allies abandon Russia, with her limitless resources, to her fat; if they postpone action and the demonstration of their strength; if they leave the door open to German expropriation; we may consider any guarantees of future peace as irrevocably lost.

The danger is great and we are persuaded that you fully realize it. But you appear to hesitate before the task to be accomplished, and the responsibilities to be assumed by you, since, as we are assured, it is principaliy in order to receive the complete approbation of your government that the prompt solution of the question is being delayed.

Are you misled by the illusion of Bolchevism? No refuse to believe in such a delusion of your clear mind and upright conscience.

Are you, before acting, waiting for a general call from the entire country? You know as well as we do that there exists no legally constituted authority capable at this moment of speaking for all Russia. And yet, from every corner of that vast country, from all classes of its population, from all those parties and democratic groups for whom the maximalist tyranny is the synonym of reactionary despotism, voices call to you in their despair and cry out their threatened country's need of your efficacious and immediate aid. Is not that enough?

Are you hesitating before the technical difficulties of a military intervention in a country of enormous distances and defective communications? That would not be like you. Your energy has already accomplished still more arduous tasks.

Certainly the difficulties to be surmounted would be great—no one would think of denying it - but would they not be counterbalanced, and that largely, by the moral effect produced? And would not this moral effect inevitably bring about tangible consequences?

Can we, in fact, for a single moment, hold the idea that the landing of allied and friendly troops on Siberian territory would not force the Germans to stop withdrawing their troops from Russia in Europe?

The Germans who, unfortunately, know the true state of affairs in the country far better than do the Allies, nourish no illusions as to the welcome which the population would give an army arriving in the name of the Allies. They know, in particular, that their own influence

— founded on terror — would fade away before the sympathy which would go forth to meet the defenders of liberty.

Bourtzeff, the well-known Russian political writer, who can hardly be suspected of counter-revolutionary tendencies, wrote to the " Times " :

" The Germans desire that the disintegration of Russia skould continue at any cost, and they support the Bolcheviks as a carrion destided to infect the entire country. The news is good, since we learn that Siberia has detached herself from the Bolcheviks, that she is wrenching the power away from the Judas of Russia to confide it to those who hate both the Bolcheviks and the Germans. "

Will not such indications, multiplying every day, succeed in conquering your scruples?

Do not forget that, without your complete approbation and concourse, an armed intervention of the Allies would lose much of its character of democratic and desinterested unity and, from that very fact, might not have in Russia the full effect desired.

Do not forget that each postponement may delay the final success of the Allies, and that each day of delay is paid with the blood of the combatants!

May you, our good and sincera friends, yield to the pressing sincerity of our suggestions and the evidences of reality!

This is our most ardent desire. Yours to answer! Ours to wait and hope!

**The Russian Republican League**

**The Committee " Oborona "**
**(Defence of the country)**

**The Society " France et Russie "**
**(Help to the Russian volunteers in the french army)**

*Paris, July 1918.*

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